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## **9.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES**

An irreversible commitment of resources occurs when there is destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Irretrievable resource commitments result when there is a loss in value of a resource that cannot be restored. Most of the resource commitments for the proposed intermodal facilities are short-term or temporary. Those resources that may have irreversible or irretrievable commitments are discussed in detail below.

The proposed action would require the expenditure of human and fiscal resources and the potential modification of natural resources. Land and materials utilized in the construction of the project are considered an irreversible commitment.

Resources affected by construction of the project may be irreversibly altered. The proposed project would result in the commitment of between 740 and 860 acres of land most of which would be occupied by intermodal facilities. This commitment would be long-term although if a greater need arises for the use of the land, the facilities could be demolished and converted or altered for another use. At present, there are no reasonably foreseeable reasons to believe such a conversion would ever be necessary or desirable.

Construction would require the expenditure of materials that are generally not retrievable. Considerable amounts of fossil fuels, labor, and construction materials such as cement, aggregate, iron, and gravel would be expended and large amounts of labor and natural resources are necessary in the fabrication and preparation of construction materials. However, although these materials are generally not retrievable, they are not in short supply and their use would not have an adverse effect upon continued availability of these resources. In addition, construction would also require large, one-time investment of both state and federal funds that are not retrievable.

The commitment of these resources is based on the concept that residents both within the project area, as well as the region, would benefit by improvements in the quality of the local and regional intermodal transportation systems. The facilities would improve the highway, railway, and shipping capabilities of the region by substantially enhancing accessibility and saving time. The facilities should provide a positive influence on the economy of the region and the livelihood of its citizens.

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